

VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION & NEWSPAPER

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MARCH 2002



file photo

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Beverly Morgan's work with community singers continues. She is rehearsing the Steel Choir, which she founded for the Touchstone Theatre Steel Festival in 1999, for a CD which will be released in September. Beverly believes the recording will add an important piece of musical history to the story of Bethlehem Steel, its workers and neighborhoods. Look for future announcements of this special project in future VFPs.

BEVERLY MORGAN RESIGNS FROM ACCO

After many years as the founder and artistic director of ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women, Beverly Morgan has resigned.

In keeping with the mission of ACCO, she and the chorus have brought the music of women to increased audiences in the Lehigh Valley. Through concerts, volunteerism, and educational programs, ACCO has been a unique chorus with 2 equally strong commitments; one to musical excellence and the other to feminism. Beverly is very proud to have founded a chorus built on these commitments.

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MCC BLESSING OF RELATIONSHIPS

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley presented another remarkable and inspiring "National Freedom to Marry Day Blessing of Relationships" service on Sunday, February 17 at the church.

183 people were present to support and celebrate the love of same-sex couples. 39 couples participated in the blessing. MCCLV thanks the event co-sponsors and the 12 clergy members who participated.

PROJECT EASTER BUNNY

Project Easter Bunny aims to collect new or clean-used stuffed animals and deliver them to shelters and agencies who directly serve children throughout the Lehigh Valley. Created eight years ago by Stephen Libby, PEB has collected and distributed an estimated 3000 stuffed animals. Pizza Hut in Emmaus and The Swain School have helped collect for kids. To put up a drop box and poster, contact Steve, STL327@hotmail.com.



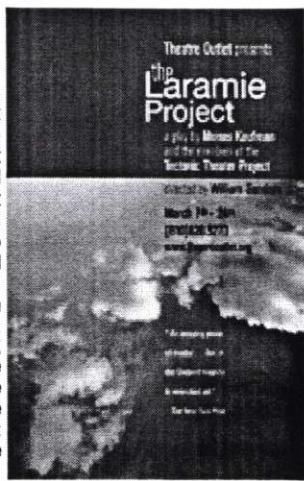
PA-GALA'S BENEFIT PERFORMANCE OF THE LARAMIE PROJECT MARCH 15 - IS SOLD OUT!!!

PA-GALA's benefit performance of the Laramie Project play at Theatre Outlet, set for March 15, is completely sold out. Proceeds from that performance of the play will support PA-GALA's efforts to pass the PA Hate Crimes Bill and to Pride of the Lehigh Valley.

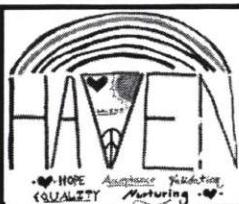
If you are interested in supporting PA-GALA's efforts, **YOU CAN ATTEND THE RECEPTION** held before the play at 6:30pm. Tickets for the reception only, are \$10 and are still available. Call PA-GALA: 610-432-5449 for tickets to the reception.

LARAMIE PROJECT PERFORMANCES MARCH 7-24

You can still get tickets to see the Laramie Project at the Theatre Outlet for other performances. The play will run from March 7 to March 24. Contact Theatre Outlet, 29 N. 9th Street, Allentown. Phone #: 610-820-9270.



GLBT YOUTH HOLD DANCE, DESIGN LOGO



About 40 GLBT young people attended HAVEN's 1st ever event planned outside the regular meetings on Wednesday nights. The Valentine's Dance even featured performances by the kids. HAVEN continues to meet at UUCLV and is for GLBT youth and their friends, aged 14 to 20. For further information: 610-868-2153, email: haventyouthgroup@hotmail.com

MCC CONCERT

Metropolitan Community Church will be hosting a Marsha Stevens concert on Saturday, March 23, 7 p.m. at the church. Marsha Stevens is a gospel singer, songwriter and evangelist who travels around the country giving concerts at MCCs.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS, THE SOUND OF MUSIC AND OTHER NOISES

Encore performances at Odette's, on River Road in New Hope, on March 8 through 10. The cost is \$16. Reservations: call Odette's.



PRIDE NEEDS YOU

THE PRIDE FESTIVAL WILL BE SUNDAY, JUNE 16 BUT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED, ESPECIALLY FOR PARADE AND FILM FESTIVAL. READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 6



Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.



PLANET Parenthood

edited by Carolyn Lewis

CO-PARENTING

Do you remember that dating article I wrote some months back? Well, skipping over all the gorydetails (This is a parenting column, not a dating column!) the end result has turned out rather nicely. A very lovely lady and her teenage daughter have joined forces with my two kids and me. It is exciting and challenging everyday as we blend our two families together. But, since we are reasonable, intelligent, giving, loving, and romantic folks, we must also have our differences. It's simply part of the package.

Now, the kids haven't had much trouble adjusting at all. They've adapted well and have grown to love each other. Not like real brothers and sisters. Nope. They actually get along better than if they had grown up together. Perhaps it's the age difference, perhaps it's how we prepared them, perhaps they're extraordinarily resilient, or mature. Perhaps they just simply like each other. Whatever it is, they have found a way to make it work for themselves. I'd like to take credit for it, but, frankly, I can't figure out how.

So where is the challenge? It's with the parenting. We are both strong, involved, and protective mothers. As with any blended family, gay or straight, parenting styles will differ. Particularly with parents who have gotten used to doing the whole job, by themselves, for an extended period of time.

I got spoiled and used to having my way all the time. Sure, it was a lot of work, but who was there to contradict my style? Now the dynamics are different. I have to (gulp) compromise! And, I have my parental short comings pointed out to me! (Lovingly, of course, but it's still hard to take.) Plus, control freak that I am, I don't miss an opportunity to point out someone else's mistakes!

Also, while I have 2 young kids, I need to learn how to live with a teenager. And my partner has to revisit the preschool years that she thought she'd left behind forever. So, naturally, there is conflict and growing pains.

Then we look at all of our kids playing together, or reading to each other. We see the ease with which they love, and we learn from them. It's as if they are saying to us, "It's not so hard! Let all of that adult stuff go, and come and play!" And, smart parents that we are, we do.

INTEGRITY BETHLEHEM CHANGES FORMAT

On January 18 the members of Integrity met to discuss a change of format for the Bethlehem Chapter, which has been in existence for over 10 years. Integrity is the organization for GLBT Episcopalian (both lay and clergy) and their friends and families.

When the chapter first started, a need to meet once a month to share scriptures and the Holy Eucharist in a "safe" environment was clear. Participants felt both welcomed and affirmed by their congregation. Clergy support contributed to this feeling.

But recent low attendance has caused the Chapter to consider how better to meet the needs of the membership. In order to retain a charter from National Integrity, a chapter must meet once a year with its Diocesan Bishop and have a presence at the Diocesan Convention. After discussion it was decided that the Chapter would have quarterly gatherings at homes and other venues around the Diocese. The emphasis would be more on fellowship. The Bishop will be explicitly invited to one gathering a year.

To become a member and receive a quarterly magazine from National Integrity, log onto: integrityusa.org. National yearly dues are \$35/year with \$5 sent to the local chapter. To participate as a local member call 610-758-8642 or E-mail: integritybeth@mindspring.com.

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner and I have purchased a home. It is titled in joint tenancy with right of survivorship. Do you have any further suggestions for our situation? Signed, Happy New Homeowners

Dear HNH, Congratulations on your new purchase!! I am sure you were able to acquire an excellent interest rate. Joint Tenancy With Right of Survivorship, ensures that the house will pass to each other if one of you should pass away. If one joint tenant dies then the remaining joint tenant automatically owns the entire property, without the necessity of probate court proceedings. Even if the deceased partner has a will, title to the property transfers to the survivor, regardless of the terms of the will. However, you need to consider other aspects.

It's tough to think about breaking up a relationship when you are happily setting up a new home. But because same-sex couples cannot get legally married, we also cannot get legal (and judicial) divorces. That means that if the time ever comes for you to part, the fairness of the division of property is completely up to the both of you.

So regardless of how title is held, every unmarried couple who buys property together should have a written partnership agreement to cover the rights of each person concerning the house. It should also provide that any dispute concerning ownership be resolved by arbitration or mediation if an agreement cannot be reached.

The best time to create a partnership agreement is before closing on the house. I suggest drawing up an agreement in simple english. Even though you may have an oral agreement on who pays which expenses or who performs maintenance duties, it is best for you to put your expectations in writing. Who is responsible for what proportion of the common expenses, such as food, laundry, telephone, electric, cell phone bills, etc.?

Whatever way you choose to divide things up, it should be done in writing. The agreement will take some thought and organization. You want to review the situation on a periodic basis, like every six months or annually. Just like your relationship continues to evolve, the partnership agreement may also evolve.

Consider including such things as household furnishings purchased as a couple while living in the house. One suggestion is for each of you purchase items separately, with an understanding, if you choose in the future to go your separate ways, each item bought will remain the property of that person.

I hope you and your partner stay in love and happily partnered forever. But if things don't work out, having a partnership agreement can help avoid a bad situation.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. located at 7248 Tighman St. in Allentown. Please mail your questions or send e-mail to Denise.M.Mckelvey@AEFP.com. Information provided within this column may not be appropriate for your specific financial situation.

MIDNIGHT STAR CAFE

The Midnight Star Cafe and Books, at 739 Linden Street, Bethlehem is a gay-friendly bookstore. It's open Monday through Saturday, 10am to 8pm, and Sunday from 1:30 to 6. You can pick up the VFP and the PGN there, as well as second hand books and a cup O'joe.

MORE ON PROJECT EASTER BUNNY

More info regarding Project Easter Bunny (see page one). People may drop off the stuffed animals at The Swain School on 24 st. and at the Emmaus Pizza Hut until March 24th.

HOT NEWS

BARNES & NOBLE GLBT BOOKCLUB

Barnes & Noble GLBT book club meets in the cafe area at the Whitehall store at 7:00 PM. All are welcome! Here is the upcoming schedule: March 19 - You're Not From Around Here, Are You? By Louise Blum, April 16 - Walking Home-A Woman's Pilgrimage on the Appalachian Trail by Kelly Winters, May 21 - The World of Normal Boys, A Novel by K.M. Soehlein.

STEVIE Z APPEARANCES

March 9, 16 and 30 - Brick Tavern Inn (Quakertown), from 6:30-9:30PM. Come hear StevieZ play dinner music. Reservations are highly suggested - call (215) 538-0865.

March 22 - (Friday) StevieZ is at the Moose lounge (Allentown) from 9PM-Midnite - playing your favorites. Come on out for a nice time around the piano. Meet new people, join old friends.

Remember! Half of all tips given during March and April will go to Pride of the LV. Thanks to your generosity in January and February a nice sum was raised for FACT.

PFLAG MEETINGS

PFLAG LV -Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays: CALENDAR ALERT:
March 2 -- Monroe Cnty Meeting, 7:00pm
March 10 -- Bethlehem Meeting, 3:00 pm.
March 19 -- Reading Meeting, 6:30 pm. Kim Haring who is the sister of the late renowned artist Keith Haring will be meeting with us.

March 21 -- Pottsville Meeting 7:30 pm
April 6 -- Monroe Cnty Meeting 3:00pm
April 14 -- Bethlehem Meeting 3:00 pm
April 16 -- Reading Meeting 6:30 pm
May 4 -- Monroe County Meeting 3:00 pm
May 12 -- Bethlehem Meeting 3:00 pm
May 21 --Reading Meeting 6:30 pm
For information on these and other PFLAG events call: 610-967-5219.

NEW MONROE PFLAG

The Monroe County PA PFLAG chapter will meet on the first Saturday of every month from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the Northampton Community College - Monroe Campus - Room 149. e-mail: AMLeePFLAG@aol.com - 24-hour confidential Help Line # 570-620-1234 and our fax # is 570-688-9645, Mailing address: Monroe County PFLAG - PO Box 419, Reeder, PA 18352-0419.

3 MCC EVENTS

Special MCC upcoming services:
MCCLV Lenten Communion Services- Every Wednesday during Lent, 7:30 p.m. At the Church, 424 Center Street, March 8, 13, 20, 27

Gospel Singer Marsha Stevens at MCCLV, Saturday, March 23

Seder Meal- Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. Please call the church office at 610-954-7775 to reserve a seat.

Good Friday Service- Friday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Service- Sunday, March 31. Regularly scheduled 5:50 p.m. service.

MCC PLANS CHILD-CARE DURING SERVICE

MCCLV is dealing with a dilemma that every church would love to have . There are more and more families worshiping at MCC who have young children. "How shall MCC minister to the children?"

MCC feels It's important that children learn on their own level of God's love for them, and that their parents are able to come and enjoy worship without the distraction of tending to their little ones.

The plan is to hire a caregiver to be with the children during worship (approximately 5:45 to 7:15 PM). Volunteers from the congregation will plan and provide activities for the children, such as age appropriate songs, videos, art projects and Bible stories. Worship will also include a brief children's message and/or prayer of blessing before the children are dismissed for their own ministry program. Applicants are being sought for the paid caregiver position. Anyone interested can contact the MCCLV office at 610-954-7775. MCC is hoping to fill the position by mid-April.

GLSEN MEETING

The new Lehigh Valley Chapter of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) will have its first meeting on March 11, at 7:00pm, Muhlenberg College's Student Union Building, room 108 -109. Since homophobia and heterosexism undermine a healthy school climate, GLSEN works to educate teachers, students and the public about the damaging effects these forces have on youth and adults. Information: 610-867-6641, <csbarron21@aol.com>

GLOSS GAME NIGHT

The next GLOSS Game Night will be held on Saturday, March 9th in Walnupport starting at 7pm. For directions check the GLOSS website: <http://www.gloss.org/indoors1.htm> or Email: info@gloss.org Phone: 610-434-2966.

GAY MEN OF LV

"GMLV is a social group of gay men that strives to create a safe, healthy and caring environment to develop friendships, to provide support and understanding for each other's lives and to learn more about our community."

Mar. 9, 7 pm - GMLV will show a film at the Family Health Chiropractic Center.

GMLV meets every 2nd Saturday of each month at 7 pm. Refreshments are served at each meeting. A one dollar donation is requested. GMLV is self-operated and maintained. It depends on the participation of each of its members to function. If you would like to give your time or financial support or would just like to provide a snack or help plan a new event, please speak with director Joe Canto or email gaymenlv@hotmail.com.

BEARS

The Lehigh Valley Bears, a social group for hairy men and their admirers, meets the first Saturday of the month at 8pm, at the Stonewall upstairs in the Moose Lounge under the moosehead. For more information please contact Mike at 610-814-6916 or email Mtnbear@fast.net.

LV GLBT PARTNER DANCE GROUP 1ST EVENT

The group's first activity will be to attend the OUTdancing weekend in the Poconos March 22-24. This weekend event is held at the Pocono Manor Inn, which is only about 45 minutes from LV. You can get a day pass for about \$80, if you think the price of the full weekend is too steep.

This event is a lot of fun and a great resource for people who enjoy, or would like to get into partner dancing. They really have something for ALL levels. For information: <fabio@early.com>.

GLBT PARTNER DANCE GROUP CONTINUES PLANNING

The LV GLBT partner dance group is still in the planning stages. Several people have contacted the organizers to express interest. More people are needed. The plan of the group is to have lessons in various forms of partner dance (from swing to salsa) and to organize dances for practice and fun.

If you are interested in this fun, exciting and healthy activity, email Fabio at <fabio@early.com>.

GLORA PLANS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown plans social events in the Lehigh Valley. For info write: GLORA , PO Box 1952, Allentown, PA 18105-1952 or email GLORAIinPA@aol.com

CALENDAR⁴

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA
610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley -
610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
As If Productions - Documentary Film Makers,
610.434.7845

BMA-Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and
Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book
Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm
BEARS-1st Saturdays Monthly, 8pm, at the
Stonewall, Moose Lounge 610-814-
6916, Mtnbr@fast.net.

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St,
610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

Enigma Players 610-432-0706

EQUAL@Agere- email: equal@agere

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together
610.820.5519

GLEE@Air Products

GLASS-atLehigh Univ., 610.758.3469

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet,
<vagrannahollow.com/GLISN/>

GLÓRA- Gay and Lesbian Organization
of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings,
various dates) Newsletter- The Tasse. Write to:
P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952,
email- GLORAInPA@AOL.COM

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports
Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA
18002 610.434.2966.

GLSEN-Gay, Lesbian,Straight,Education
Network,610-867-6641,csbarron21@aol.com
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd
Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610.954.7775

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV -
call:610-868-215, email: havenyouthgroup
@hitmail.comor zinnes@fast.net

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship,
Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931
Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity-Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians
Family & Friends meet quarterly for fellowship
and fun. 610-758-8642 or integritybeth@
mindspring.com"

KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and
social group for lesbians and bisexual women
Contact: Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna
at610.997.00607

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus,
email:lvcmc@hotmail.com, <www.lvgmc.org>
phone 610-366-3320, rehearsals::
Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center
Street, Bethlehem

MCC - Metropolitan Community office-424
Center St. Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays ,
610.954.7775

NCC- Northampton Community College Gay
Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, call
610.861.5541(#1386)or882-2531

19th St/Civic Theatre-610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for
Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, &
Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20
to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002
610.432.5449

PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of
Lesbians and gays 2nd Sundays 3pm at NCC,
Coll. Ctr Rm 134 610.967.5219
<www.users.fast.net/~pflag>

Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride
Festival) 610.770.6200, email:
<lpriode@hotmail.com>, <www.pridelv.org>

QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College
Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA,
<QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

MARCH 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 WDIY BEARS GLOSS HAVEN Training
3 MCC HMFF UUCLV GLORA PARTS Bingo	4 RAA	5 GLOSS LVGM C	6 HAVEN	7 ACCO RAA TO GLOSS	8 → MCC	9 GMLV LVGM C GLOSS Game Night
10 Bingo PFLAG B STEVIE Z	11 RAA GLSEN	12 Pride Meeting GLOSS LVGM C	13 HAVEN MCC TO	14 ACCO RAA GLOSS	15 PA-GALA BENEFIT LARAMIE PROJECT	16 GLOSS WDIY
17 Bingo HMFF UUCLV MCC	18 RAA	19 B&N Bookclub LVGM C	20 HAVEN TO	21 PFLAG R P22 RAA ACCO GLOSS	22 MCC CONCERT	23 GLOSS WDIY
24 WDIY MCC EASTER S1 HMFF UUCLV	25 RAA	26 GLOSS LVGM C	27 HAVEN MCC	28 ACCO RAA MCC GLOSS	29 MCC Good Fri	30 STEVIE Z

APRIL 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA	GLOSS LVGM C	2 HAVEN	3 RAA GLOSS ACCO	4	5 WDIY GLOSS
6 PFLAG M MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV Bingo	7 RAA	8 GLOSS LVGM C	9 HAVEN	10 RAA GLOSS ACCO	11	12 GMLV WDIY GLOSS GMLV
13 PFLAG B MCC Bingo	14 RAA	15 GLOSS LVGM C	16 HAVEN B&N Bookclub PFLAG R	17 RAA GLOSS ACCO	18	19 WDIY
20 WDIY HMFF UUCLV Bingo	21 RAA	22 GLOSS LVGM C	23 HAVEN	24 RAA GLOSS ACCO	25	26 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
27 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	28 Bingo RAA	29 GLOSS LVGM C	30 HAVEN	31 RAA GLOSS ACCO		

MAY 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 WDIY BEARS GLOSS
3 MCC HMFF UUCLV Bingo	4 RAA PFLAG M	5 GLOSS LVGM C	6 HAVEN	7 RAA GLOSS	8	9 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
10 PFLAG B	11 RAA	12 GLOSS LVGM C	13 HAVEN	14 RAA GLOSS	15	16 WDIY
17 Bingo	18 RAA	19 LVGM C GLOSS PRIDE	20 HAVEN	21 PFLAG R RAA B&N Bookclub GLOSS	22	23 WDIY GLOSS
24 MCC Bingo WDIY HMFF UUCLV	25 RAA	26 GLOSS LVGM C	27 HAVEN	28 RAA GLOSS		

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA.
Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs.
Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Atown.
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc.,
PO Box 3624 Atown, PA 18016
610-814-5912/5913 racquel-lv@webtv.net
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College
Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG - 610.488.7533 or 670.8029
Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming,
gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown
610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown,
610-820-9270.
Unity-26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV-Unitarian Universalist Church of the
Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem,
18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449,
liztrish@aol.com
YVH - Valley Youth House for emotionally
troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481
WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:00 pm
This Way Out, Assorted Women 7:30 pm. 610-
694-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

FACT BINGO DIAMONZ SUNDAYS
GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
LV BEARS - 1ST SATURDAYS
GAY MEN-LV - 2ND SATURDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -
TUES & THURS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL -
TUES & SATS
GAY MEN'S CHORUS - MAR 1-2
PFLAG MONROE CO. - MAR 2
LARAMIE PROJECT TO - MAR 7-24
MCC LENTEN SERVICE - MAR 8
GAY MEN'S CHORUS - MAR 8-10
GLOSS GAME NIGHT - MAR 9
GAY MEN-LV FILM NIGHT - MAR 9
STEVIE Z - BRICK TAVERN - MAR 9
PFLAG BETHLEHEM - MAR 10
GLSEN @ MUHLENBURG - MAR 11
PRIDE FESTIVAL MTG - MAR 12
MCC LENTEN SERVICE - MAR 13
PA-GALA BENEFIT -
LARAMIE PROJECT - MAR 15
PFLAG READING - MAR 19
B & N BOOK CLUB - MAR 19
PFLAG POTTSVILLE - MAR 21
STEVIE Z - STONEWALL - MAR 22
B & N BOOK CLUB - MAR 19
PFLAG POTTSVILLE - MAR 21
MCC LV GOSPEL CONCERT - MAR 23
MCC LENTEN SERVICE - MAR 27
MCC SEDER - MAR 28
MCC GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - MAR 29
STEVIE Z - BRICK TAVERN - MAR 30
MCC EASTER SERVICE - MAR 31
PFLAG MONROE - APR 6
PFLAG BETHLEHEM - APR 14
PFLAG READING - APR 16
B & N BOOK CLUB - APR 16
PFLAG MONROE - MAY 4
PFLAG BETHLEHEM - MAY 12
PFLAG READING - MAY 21
B & N BOOK CLUB - MAY 21
LV PRIDE FESTIVAL - SUN JUNE 16

INFORMATION
SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CALL TO CONFIRM

TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449

EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

5

FROM THE BLESSING SERVICE

One of the most beautiful parts of MCC's Ecumenical Blessing Service, was the recitation by John and Jim, who have been together 43 years. Here is an except:

Jim: Who could have guessed that 43 years later we would still be sharing our thoughts and finishing...

John: each other's sentences.

Jim: In keeping with the spirit of Valentine's Day and tonight's celebration, we are pleased to share with you our personal "Ode to Love."

John: Not so very long ago, in the spring of '59

Jim: 'twas mostly straight romances then, that aged like fine old wine.

John: Society had made the rules by which we were to play,

Jim: yet somehow it still seemed okay to love in our own way.



CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your Vermont Civil Union listed here, or to get more information on how to get a Vermont Civil Union, e-mail VFP at: <liztrish@aol.com>.

HIV TESTING

For free HIV counseling and testing: Allentown Health Bureau, 245 North 6th St. Allentown. 610-437-7742, FAX 610-437-8799.

POINT → ← COUNTER - POINT WITH STEPHEN LIBBY & JAN ELSASSOR

POINT BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

See Rosie. See Rosie as a stand-up comic. See Rosie host a show on MTV. See Rosie play softball in A League of Their Own. See Rosie make friends with Madonna. See Rosie play talk show hostess. See Rosie on the cover of the National Enquirer with "pal" Kelly. See Rosie profess her love for Tom Cruise. See Rosie win a couple of Emmys. See ratings start to decline after five seasons. See Rosie decide to quit her talk show. See Rosie pen an autobiography and hint at past flings with women. See Rosie flirt with coming out on Will & Grace. See Rosie come out. Come out, Rosie, come out! See, Rosie, it's not that bad. See everyone yawn. See me pull my hair out (insert irony) because another celebrity waits until no one cares or everyone already suspects.

All kidding aside, this is a fine line to walk. To come out or not to come out. When to come out. Not to mention the activists who get angry that people don't come out sooner. We should not look at celebrities as role models. They are only human with the same insecurities and frailties that help to shape us all. There is probably more acceptance of sexual minorities because the average Joe and Jo have been open and honest with those they care about, than knowing that Elton John or the Indigo Girls are out. Some of my glbt friends are crying -what took Rosie so long? Other straight friends thought she was already out. Who cares. Be open and honest about yourself and if you need a role model look no further than our local activists and new City Council.

COUNTER-POINT BY JAN ELSASSOR

Living in society requires that we participate in a social contract; an agreement to abide by certain rules that guide our behavior. Subcultures have their own addendum to that social contract that emphasizes protecting and supporting other members of the same subculture. The social contract for gays and lesbians has included the expectation that we will not out one another; sometimes to each other, and especially to the straight world. In recent years, however, as gays and lesbians have come out and become more visible, we question whether gay and lesbian celebrities should shatter the closet door; or even more challenging, whether we should shatter the door for them.

Whether or not a celebrity comes out is mostly a personal matter. I feel the gay and lesbian addendum to the social contract compels us to respect a celebrity's decision to remain closeted unless circumstances exist that make outing a celebrity permissible. Two examples:

a. The celebrity persecutes the gay and lesbian community. John Paulk-the ex-gay poster child caught frequenting a gay bar -- is an example of a person who was outed to prevent him from inflicting pain on the gay and lesbian community. By perpetrating the fraud that his sexual orientation was a moral choice, he brought untold suffering on gays and lesbians struggling to accept their own sexual orientation.

b. The celebrity earns his/her living off of the gay and lesbian community. Is Sean Hayes gay? I don't have a clue. In a quotation to a reporter inquiring about his sexual orientation, Mr. Hayes stated that his sexual orientation is his own business. True enough; though one hardly ever hears heterosexuals defend their right to keep their sexual orientation private. Yet as an actor who built his career on gay roles and with the proud support of the gay and lesbian community, it is deplorable that he ducked the question.

What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About" editors with questions about gay and lesbian issues.

VFP received an email expressing disbelief that Senator Rick Santorum would actually support the organization claiming to be actively working to pass an anti same-sex marriage amendment to the US constitution. We offered to fax the Santorum letter to the email author, but he suggested instead that we print it in VFP. We thought about it seriously. In the interim we received several more messages that people in the community have received these letters from Santorum condemning the gay community and asking for funding for the anti-gay organization that paid for the mailing. Even the minister of a local gay-friendly church, has told us that Santorum sent him a special anti-gay letter just for churches.

We have decided not to print Santorum's letter because it will take up too much room that is better used for positive news of our own community. You can read about it in last month's VFP. If you would like to see the letter, we will fax it to you. Call us at 610-432-5449 if you wish us to do so. The Editors

To Steve Libby, I am writing you regarding your list of the best LGBT TV and Movies of the year (Feb. VFP). While I have to agree with your TV choices, I was down right disappointed by your Movie list. I don't think any list of the the Best GLBT Movies can be complete without Hedwig and the Angry Inch.

Not only was this the audience choice award winner at Sundance, but John Mitchell won for best director at the same festival. Here is a film conceived by two openly gay men which deals with transgender issues like no other film ever has. I think you were mistaken to leave it off your list. I am somewhat biased since I was fortunate enough to see the original cast off-broadway. If you have not seen it, I highly recommend it.

Yours, Jerry Schmidt

Dear Queen's Acres Guy,

Thanks for your response to the "best of" list. Unfortunately I had not viewed Hedwig prior to making the list. Upon viewing this emotional and original film, I would certainly recommend it to everyone. I hereby appoint you national Hedwig fan club president. Ta-da! Thanks, Steve

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Part of the mission of the LVGMC is to provide quality choral music throughout the region, and to represent the LGBT and Allied community as a vibrant, creative community without which all society would be impoverished.

The Chorus is open to all people who sing tenor, baritone, or bass, who are supportive of its mission. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem. Further information is available on their website (www.lvgmc.org).

QUOTE

"Among the varieties of American innocence that were lost on September 11, perhaps the most intriguing was the mass discovery of what it feels like to be hated. 'How can they hate us,' people asked, 'just because we're Americans, when they don't even know us?' Well, I thought, welcome to my world. People hate homosexuals all the time, across great distances, from places where they feel threatened by us even though most of us would never contemplate living there."

—Michael Schwartz writing in The Gay & Lesbian Review, January-February issue.

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SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



IT'S OSCAR TIME

Opulence returns to television on March 24 with the 74th Academy Awards show. Cora, a coworker, asked me, "Who do you want to win best actress, Halle Berry, Nicole Kidman, or Renee Zellweger?" I said, "Honey, I'm queer. Judy Garland. Audrey Hepburn. Joan Crawford. Bette Davis. All the actresses I follow are dead. Let's watch 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?' the feel-good movie of 1962."

If I had to pick an actress to win an Oscar this year it would be Dame Judi Dench. Dame Judi, if you're reading this, I'm rooting for you. Maybe I have an attraction for English actresses. I told Cora I liked Maggie Smith and Glenda Jackson. Cora said she liked them when they were on TV on "Charlie's Angels."

One of the most deliciously bizarre sequences I ever saw was that opening number of Snow White with Rob Lowe. Maybe they could reprise that this year with Cinderella and Charlie Sheen.

In the best supporting actor category I am rooting for out and proud Sir Ian McKellen for his portrayal of Gandalf in The Lord of The Rings. That movie was mesmerizing.

And so my little chipmunk readers I wish you good luck in your office Oscar pools. This year I'm taking Cora to the cleaners.

PRIDE NEEDS YOU...OR ELSE

Pride of LV is struggling & can use your help. Last year's storm hurt their budget & they may need to cancel the parade or drastically reduce the festival if they do not get some new volunteers & funding. Pride really needs new people to step up & help out. This is the time to give back to your community. Every committee is also in need of new talent & ideas. If you are wondering what you can do, please read on & come to the next Pride Festival Planning Meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 pm at the FACT office (located on N.12th St. in Allentown, next door to Candida's Bar).

The Film festival needs people to help pick out new films & coordinate locations & speakers. The Entertainment committee needs people to seek out performers, negotiate contracts, acquire sponsorships, organize shows & provide help with stage management. The Vendor & Advertising Committee needs people to entice new businesses to come to the festival & follow up with previous vendors. The PR Committee needs those with a flair to design posters & handouts. Graphic & web designers are encouraged to lend their support to producing the printed Pride Guide & Pride's web site. General volunteers are needed to go to events, clubs & businesses to distribute information & sign up new members. The Parade committee needs people to round up groups to march, design & create a Pride float, secure cars for select honorees & help coordinate on the day of the event. Hands are also needed at the festival for set-up, booth staffing & cleanup.

Lastly, but definitely not least, Pride is desperately in need of a creative & responsible fundraising chair to organize benefits and other ways to increase Pride's funding, so the festival can go on! If you are interested in this position or another board position, please contact Pride immediately. If you want to learn more about anything listed here or sign up to volunteer, please contact Pride at 610-770-6200 or by email at pridelv@hotmail.com. Their web site is www.pridelv.org.

AS IF PRODUCTIONS FINISHES FILM

Stephen Libby & crew are putting the finishing touches on PWA People With AIDS: 20 Years Later. They would like to invite the community to email names of loved ones lost to HIV/AIDS to be used at the end of this documentary. STL327@hotmail.com

A VIEW FROM A DYKE

BY LIZ BRADBURY

GAY HISTORY MONTH

I started with 250 important moments in our history but had to cut it down to 65. So here's the nutshell version:

- c 3000 BC -- David & Jonathan - Ruth & Naomi - biblical lovers
- 615 BC -- Sappho born on Lesbos, source of word lesbian
- 1623 -- (gay) King James I, commissions new translation of Bible - more harsh on gay and minority issues
- 1869 -- the word "homosexuality" is coined
- 1895 -- Trials of Oscar Wilde
- 1933-1945 -- pink triangle used by Nazi's to condemn gays
- 1948 -- Kinsey publishes Sexual Behavior in the Human Male
- 1950 -- Harry Hay founds Mattachine Society
- 1950 -- Christine Jorgenson - 1st sex change operation
- 1955 -- Daughter's of Bilitus - 1st Lesbian Org.
- 1956 -- Dr. Evelyn Hooker study proves gays are normal
- 1968 -- Troy Perry founds Metropolitan Community Church
- 1969 -- Stonewall Rebellion
- 1970 -- 1st. Gay Pride Parade (NYC)
- 1973 -- Am. Psychiatric Assoc removes homosexuality from list
- 1973 -- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund founded
- 1975 -- Annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival begins
- 1974 -- Congresswoman Bella Abzug - pro-gay legislation
- 1977 -- TV's Soap airs with Billy Crystal as a gay character
- 1978 -- 1st Rainbow Flag designed and used in parade
- 1979 -- Dan White gets minor sentence for murdering Harvey Milk, sparking riots in SF.
- 1982 -- 1st cases of AIDS are recognized
- 1982 -- PFLAG founded
- 1985 -- Rock Hudson Dies of AIDS
- 1985 -- AIDS Names Quilt conceived
- 1986 -- Bowers vs Hardwick upheld by Supreme Court
- 1987 -- Larry Kramer and others found ACT-UP
- 1987 -- Congressman Barney Frank comes out publicly
- 1987 -- 600,000 GLBT people March on Washington
- 1988 -- Torch Song Trilogy, first gay affirming movie
- 1988 -- 1st annual National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11)
- 1991 -- Cracker Barrel boycott begins
- 1991 -- Hawaii and Connecticut pass anti-discrimination laws
- 1992 -- LLEGO -- Latino Lesbian and Gay Organization founded
- 1993 -- MN first state anti-discrimination law with transgender
- 1993 -- March on Washington - 1,000,000 GLBT people march
- 1993 -- Military Don't Ask Don't Tell rule begins
- 1993 -- Clinton appoints Roberta Achtenberg
- 1994 -- Am Psychiatric Assoc. condemns reparative therapy
- 1994 -- Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) introduced
- 1994 -- Stonewall 25 (years after) celebrated in NYC
- 1995 -- Clinton includes gays in nomination speech
- 1995 -- Ryan White Care ACT for Federal AIDS funding created
- circa 1995 - Protease inhibitors introduced to treat AIDS
- 1996 -- Hawaiian same-sex marriage is considered but defeated
- 1996 -- US Supreme Court overturns Colorado Amendment 2
- 1998 -- Ellen DeGeneres comes out in life and on TV
- 1998 -- 1st National Freedom to Marry Day
- 1998 -- Matthew Shepard is murdered
- 1990s-100s of corporations give benefits for same-sex partners
- 2000 -- Vermont grants Civil Unions to same-sex couples
- 2000 -- PA bans second parent adoption
- 2000 -- Reform Jews support same-sex marriage
- 2000 -- Millennium March on Washington
- 2000 -- James Dale fights Boy Scouts in Supreme Court ...loses
- 2001 -- Netherlands gives marriage rights to same-sex couples
- 2001 -- Mark Bigham becomes hero on Flight 93
- 2001 -- Salvation Army furthers anti-gay policies
- 2001 -- Census shows same-sex partners in every US county
- 2002 -- Am.Acad. of Pediatrics supports co-parent adoption

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TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS SUPPORTS SECOND-PARENT ADOPTION BY SAME-SEX PARENTS
Here is the text of their statement:

"Children deserve to know that their relationships with both of their parents are stable and legally recognized. This applies to all children, whether their parents are of the same or opposite sex. The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes that a considerable body of professional literature provides evidence that children with parents who are homosexual can have the same advantages and the same expectations for health, adjustment, and development as can children whose parents are heterosexual. When 2 adults participate in parenting a child, they and the child deserve the serenity that comes with legal recognition."

Children born or adopted into families headed by partners who are of the same sex usually have only 1 biologic or adoptive legal parent. The other partner in a parental role is called the "coparent" or "second parent." Because these families and children need the permanence and security that are provided by having 2 fully sanctioned and legally defined parents, the Academy supports the legal adoption of children by coparents or second parents. Denying legal parent status through adoption to coparents or second parents prevents these children from enjoying the psychological and legal security that comes from having 2 willing, capable, and loving parents.

Several states have considered or enacted legislation sanctioning second-parent adoption by partners of the same sex. In addition, legislative initiatives assuring legal status equivalent to marriage for gay and lesbian partners, such as the law approving civil unions in Vermont, can also attend to providing security and permanence for the children of those partnerships.

Many states have not yet considered legislative actions to ensure the security of children whose parents are gay or lesbian. It is important that a broad ethical mandate exist nationally that will guide the courts in providing necessary protection for children through coparent adoption.

The legal sanction provided by coparent adoption accomplishes the following: 1. Guarantees that the second parent's custody rights and responsibilities will be protected if the first parent were to die or become incapacitated. Moreover, second-parent adoption protects the child's legal right of relationships with both parents. In the absence of coparent adoption, members of the family of the legal parent, should he or she become incapacitated, might successfully challenge the surviving coparent's rights to continue to parent the child, thus causing the child to lose both parents.

2. Protects the second parent's rights to custody and visitation if the couple separates. Likewise, the child's right to maintain relationships with both parents after separation, viewed as important to a positive outcome in separation or divorce.

3. Establishes the requirement for child support from both parents in the event of the parents' separation.

4. Ensures the child's eligibility for health benefits from both parents.

5. Provides legal grounds for either parent to provide consent for medical care and to make education, health care, and other important decisions on behalf of the child.

6. Creates the basis for financial security for children in the event of the death of either parent by ensuring eligibility to all appropriate entitlements, such as Social Security survivors benefits.

On the basis of the acknowledged desirability that children have and maintain a continuing relationship with 2 loving and supportive parents, the Academy recommends that pediatricians do the following: Be familiar with professional literature regarding gay and lesbian parents and their children. Support the right of every child and family to the financial, psychologic, and legal security that results from having legally recognized parents who are committed to each other and to the welfare of their children. Advocate for initiatives that establish permanency through coparent or second-parent adoption for children of same-sex partners through the judicial system, legislation, and community education. "Statement by American Academy of Pediatrics on coparent or second-parent adoption by same-sex parents excerpted from PEDIATRICS Vol. 109 No. 2 February 2002, pp. 339-340."



POP QUIZ

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- What is Alyson, of Alyson Press's first name?
A. Milke B. Hamm C. Mary D. Sasha
- What was the name of Rita Mae Brown's 1st publishing company?
A. Daughters Inc. B. Dell
C. Alyson Press D. Womanbooks
- NY Governor in 1702, Lord Cornbury, was _____.
A. actually a woman. B. arrested for gay sex.
C. the lover of the Gov of N.J.. D. a cross-dresser
- A 1992 Ann Landers column asked gay & lesbian readers if they were happy 75,875 people answered. _____ said yes.
A. 30 to 1 B. 15 to 1 C. 5 to 1 D. 1 in 5
- Who was the first out lesbian stand-up comic to appear on a talk show (Arsenio Hall Show)?
A. Kate Clinton B. Lea DeLaria
C. Suzanne Westenhoeffer D. Ellen DeGeneres
- Who was the first openly gay or lesbian comic to get an HBO special?
A. Scot Thompson B. Bob Smith
C. Kate Clinton D. Suzanne Westenhoeffer
- What country was the first to give legal recognition to same-sex couples?
A. Denmark B. Netherlands C. Norway D. Sweden
- In what year did Pennsylvania drop the death penalty for homosexuality?
a. 1680 b. 1786 c. 1829 d. 1879
- In 1967, what was the first TV drama to air an episode that had a fairly pro-gay theme?
A. Mod Squad B. Dragnet C. NYPD D. I Spy
- How many people came to the MCC's Ecumenical Blessing Service for National Freedom to Marry Day on Sunday Feb. 17, 2002?
A. 87 B. 101 C. 151 D. 183

1.D 2.A 3.D 4.A 5.B 6.D 7.A 8.B 9.C 10.D

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The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agers

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Al Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

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GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTES FROM THE LIGHTER SIDE #1

"My sister, a physical education major at a NY state college, said her friends told her I was gay. It was one of the topics of their group house dinner conversations. 'Is Mary's sister gay? Discuss.' I reminded her that she used to call me a big fat queer. She said she would try it in other areas and since then has called me a big fat millionaire."

--Comic- Kate Clinton on coming out to her family from her book "Don't Get Me Started."

QUOTES FROM THE LIGHTER SIDE #2

"In college I experimented with heterosexuality, I slept with a straight guy. I was *really* drunk."

--Comic- Bob Smith

QUOTES FROM THE LIGHTER SIDE #3

"My lover asked me if I wanted to have children. I told her I didn't know, but we should keep trying."

--Comic- Susy Berger

QUOTES FROM THE LIGHTER SIDE #4

"I come from a very typical Jewish family ---a doctor, a lawyer and a lesbian comic. When I decided to come out of the closet to my family, I thought I would do it where I felt most comfortable, in a Chinese restaurant...where I rigged the fortune cookies. I invited the whole extended family and sat my parents at opposite ends of the table, and they both got the same fortune: 'Your son-in-law will be a turkey baster.'"

--Comic-Lisa Geduldig

QUOTES FROM THE LIGHTER SIDE #5

"In the town of Alamo, California, the residents living on a street named Gay Court were so embarrassed that they changed the name from Gay Court to High Eagle Court. I guess the name Homophobic Idiot Boulevard was already taken." --Comic-Danny Williams

Distelfink© "Sometimes it's not a good idea to ask an old lesbian about new clothes"

Hey Aunt Gertie, how do you and Aunt Alice like my new outfit?



If we do not heed history we are doomed to repeat ourselves.

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